

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SPTA-02 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2655  
INFO USINT HAVANA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 03009

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PORG, UNGA, CI, RQ  
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION ON PUERTO RICO

REF: A) STATE 186242

1. SUMMARY: POLMIN INFORMED CHILEAN UN MISSION OF PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION ON PUERTO RICO JULY 25 AND SOUGHT CONTINUED CHILEAN SUPPORT IN COMMITTEE OF 24 FOR US POSITION. CHILEAN COUNSELOR SAID WOULD REPORT TO SANTIAGO BUT ANTICIPATED NO CHANGE IN CHILE'S POSITION. SHOULD THERE BE PUERTO RICO REFERENDUM ON FUTURE STATUS, HE SUGGESTED OUTSIDE OBSERVATION, PERHAPS BY OAS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS REF A, POLMIN PETREE AND MISOFF JULY 25 CALLED ON COUNSELLOR ERRAZURIZ OF CHILEAN UN MISSION, HIGHEST-RANKING OFFICER AVAILABLE AS PERMREP AWAY AND CHARGE ON SICK LEAVE. FIRST SECRETARY MONSALVE WHO REPRESENTS CHILE IN COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) WAS ALSO PRESENT. FOLLOWING PRESENTATION PER REF A PETREE GAVE ERRAZURIZ COPY OF PROCLAMATION.  
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3. ERRAZURIZ SAID HE WOULD INFORM SANTIAGO OF OUR APPROACH BUT BELIEVED THAT CHILE WOULD MAINTAIN ITS PAST POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT. HE EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING FOR US CONCERN AT PUBLIC REACTION TO AN ADVERSE UN DECISION ON PUERTO RICO, NOTING THAT CHILE HAD EXPERIENCED SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN UN

ACTIONS. HE ASKED MONSALVE WHAT SITUATION WAS IN C-24.

4. MONSALVE EXPLAINED THAT THERE WOULD BE A DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO LATE IN AUGUST BUT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW HARD CUBA INTENDED TO PUSH FOR A DECISION THIS YEAR. (HIS MISSION, HE SAID, HAS NO CONTACT WITH CUBANS.) HE NOTED CLOSE VOTE LAST YEAR ON DEFERRAL AND AGREED THAT SITUATION WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT THIS YEAR IN LIGHT OF PROBABLE SWITCH IN POSITIONS OF ETHIOPIA AND AFGHANISTAN. HE REFERRED TO THE LARGE NUMBER OF PETITIONERS THAT APPEARED BEFORE THE COMMITTEE LAST YEAR AND SUGGESTED THAT THE US TRY TO GET SUPPORTERS OF COMMONWEALTH STATUS TO APPEAR.

5. MONSALVE NOTED THAT PETREE HAD MENTIONED RECENT CASTRO STATEMENT INDICATING CUBANS WOULD ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF A REFERENDUM EVEN IF IT DID NOT CALL FOR INDEPENDENCE, A CHANGE FROM THE POSITION CUBA HAS TAKEN IN THE PAST. MONSALVE THOUGHT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE C-24 HAD GENERALLY BEEN SCEPTICAL ABOUT THE RESULTS OF ANY REFERENDUM OR PLEBISCITE THAT WAS NOT CONDUCTED ACCORDING TO WHAT IT CONSIDERED TO BE THE PROPER "RULES". THESE RULES CALLED INTER ALIA FOR UN OBSERVATION AND THE PRESENTATION OF A RANGE OF OPTIONS, NOT JUST A "YES" OR "NO" VOTE ON ONE OPTION. CONFIDENTIAL

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THESE DETAILS WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT IN WINNING GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE RESULTS OF ANY REFERENDUM THAT MIGHT TAKE PLACE IN PUERTO RICO. HE COULD UNDERSTAND THAT US WOULD NOT WISH TO INVITE C-24 TO OBSERVE REFERENDUM, BUT SOME OUTSIDE OBSERVATION WOULD BE DESIRABLE. ERRAZURIZ SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF OAS INVOLVEMENT IN THIS RESPECT. PETREE AGREED THIS WAS IMPORTANT ASPECT AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SUGGESTIONS.

6. ERRAZURIZ AND MONSALVE HAD NO SUGGESTIONS ON WHAT WE COULD DO TO INCREASE SENTIMENT FOR US POSITION IN C-24 EXCEPT TO LOBBY WITH MEMBERSHIP HERE AND IN CAPITALS. WHEN PETREE ASKED IF THEY THOUGHT PROCLAMATION WOULD BE HELPFUL THEY NOTED THAT IT WAS RESTATEMENT OF US POSITION AND WONDERED IF IT HAD ANY JURIDICAL EFFECT. PETREE EXPLAINED POLITICAL SENSITIVITY OF SUBJECT IN US AND EMPHASIZED THAT ISSUANCE OF PROCLAMATION WAS, THEREFORE, NOT A SIMPLE THING. HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS CLEAR STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION'S INTENT AND ALSO PLACED QUESTION IN A TIMEFRAME. MONSALVE THOUGHT SOME C-24 MEMBERS MIGHT CLAIM PROCLAMATION WAS ISSUED NOW PURPOSELY TO AFFECT C-24 CONSIDERATION

OF PUERTO RICO. ERRAZURIZ WONDERED IF US ATTITUDE  
TOWARD CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA MIGHT AFFECT SITUATION  
IN C-24.

7. PETREE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR CHILE'S SUPPORT  
IN C-24 AND HOPE THAT CHILEAN MISSION COULD ALSO WORK  
ON OUR BEHALF WITH OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS. ERRZAURIZ  
SAID THEY WOULD KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US ON QUESTION.  
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## Message Attributes

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